



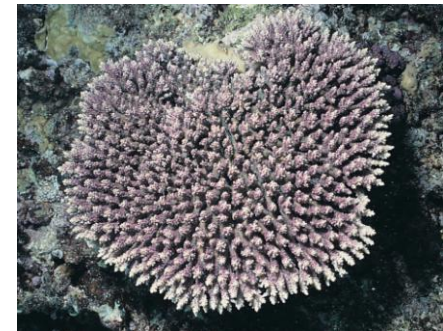
NOAA
FISHERIES

Pacific Islands Region

corals

Open House and Public Hearing:

Proposed listings of coral species under the
federal Endangered Species Act



Agenda 5:00-9:30 pm

Open House

Presentation

Q & A Session

Public Comments



Our connection to corals



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Why are we here?

What are we proposing?

What if corals are listed?

What happens next?



Why are we here?

- ✓ **NOAA Fisheries was asked to determine whether coral species are in danger of extinction.**
- ✓ **A public comment period is currently open on the proposal.**
- ✓ **We are here to receive public comments on the proposal.**

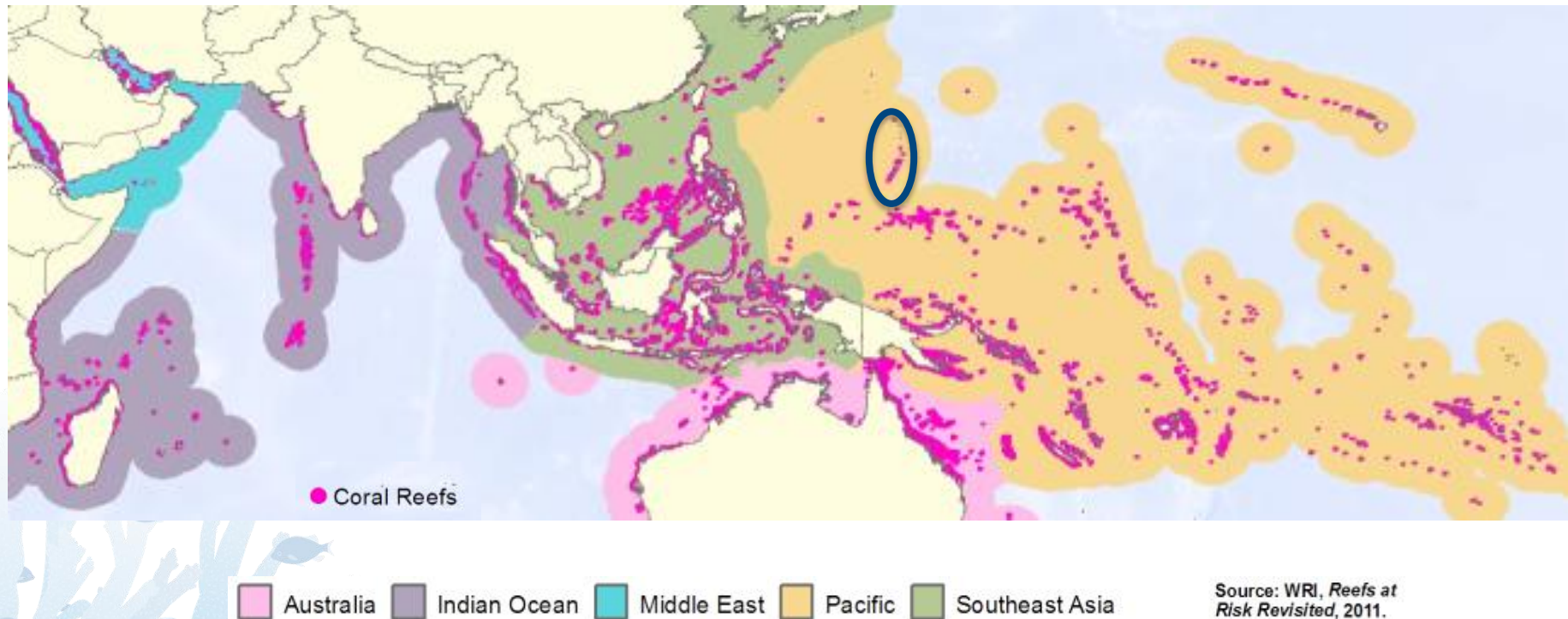


What are we proposing?

- ✓ Listing 66 coral species, 59 in the Pacific.
- ✓ Of the 59 proposed species in the Pacific, 29 are found in CNMI.
- ✓ Most of the 59 Pacific species are proposed for listing as Threatened, and a few as Endangered.
- ✓ 28 of the 29 species in CNMI are proposed as Threatened, and one species is proposed as Endangered.
- ✓ All 30 species in Guam are proposed as Threatened.



Where are the 59 proposed species found?



Species proposed in CNMI

- ✓ 29 proposed species are found in CNMI.
- ✓ The 29 species are shown in the Species Book:

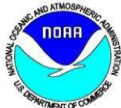


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Basis of proposal?

Status of coral species, and threats to coral species:



NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-PIFSC-27

September 2011

Status Review Report of 82 Species of Corals Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act



Russell E. Brainard, Charles Birkeland, C. Mark Eakin,
Paul McElhany, Margaret W. Miller, Matt Patterson,
and Gregory A. Piniak

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Management of threats to coral species:

Management Report for 82 Corals Status Review under the Endangered Species Act:

Existing Regulatory Mechanisms
(per Endangered Species Act § 4(a)(1)(D), 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1)(D))
and Conservation Efforts
(per Endangered Species Act § 4(b)(1)(A), 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(1)(A))

November 2012



Coral bleaching, Guam
By David Burdick, NOAA Photo Library

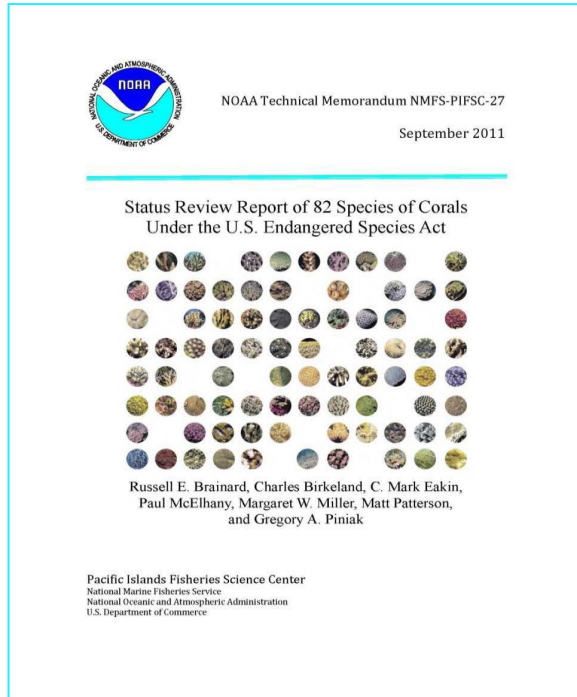
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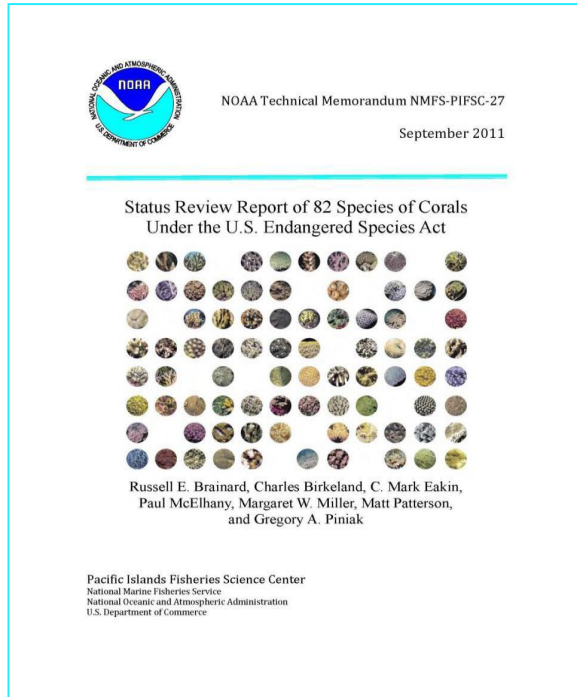
corals

Status of coral species



- ✓ Most coral species are likely to be in danger of extinction by the year 2100.
- ✓ Corals face global and local problems.

Threats to coral species



- Ocean Warming
- Disease
- Ocean Acidification

Threats to coral species



- Ocean Warming
- Disease
- Ocean Acidification
- Reef Fishing-Trophic Effects
- Sedimentation
- Nutrients
- Sea-Level Rise
- Toxins
- Changing Ocean Circulation
- Changing Storm Tracks/Intensities
- Predation
- Destructive Fishing Practices
- Ornamental Trade
- Natural Physical Damage
- Human-induced Physical Damage
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Salinity
- African/Asian Dust
- Changes in Insolation

Management of threats to coral species

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- ✓ Efforts to reduce climate change.
- ✓ Efforts to reduce local threats.

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- ✓ The worst threats are the hardest to manage.
- ✓ Actions we take now will benefit corals for future generations.

NOAA's proposal

- ✓ 59 Pacific coral species proposed for listing; 52 as Threatened, and 7 as Endangered.
 - ✓ 28 of the 29 species in CNMI are proposed as Threatened, and one species is proposed as Endangered.
 - ✓ All 30 species in Guam are proposed as Threatened.
- ✓ 16 coral species in the Pacific are Not Warranted for listing.
- ✓ Coral species with lower abundances, smaller distributions, and higher vulnerabilities to threats are at a higher extinction risk.



What If corals are listed?

| | Endangered | Threatened |
|--|------------|------------|
| Increased protection from impacts from federal activities | ✓ | ✓ |
| Restrictions on removal, harm, transport, or sale | ✓ | * |
| Development of Recovery Plans | ✓ | ✓ |
| Potential funding for State, Territorial, and Commonwealth fisheries & wildlife agencies | ✓ | ✓ |



Listing does NOT automatically:

- ✓ **PROHIBIT** recreation around coral reefs.
- ✓ **BAN** fishing around coral reefs.
- ✓ **PREVENT** boating near coral reefs.
- ✓ **STOP** research on coral reefs.



What Happens Next?

- ✓ 90-day public comment period open through March 7.
- ✓ 11 public hearings from January 22 to February 15.
- ✓ Final listing decision due by December 2013.



Questions?

- ✓ For more information, please visit the PIRO website:
http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html

- ✓ To submit a comment online:
Go to www.regulations.gov
Search for: NOAA–NMFS–2010–0036

- ✓ Please contact us with any questions:

Lance Smith
(808) 944-2258
Lance.smith@noaa.gov

Chelsey Young
(808) 944-2137
Chelsey.young@noaa.gov